

10/688,869

secured by Velcro, zipper, or other means. The entire frame can be made of plastic or other lightweight, pliant material, or combination thereof, and vary in size and shape. The hamper itself can be made of various sizes to fit ones needs and desires.

Claim 1. (amended)

What we claim as our invention is:

A partially collapsible hamper having a cylindrical upright state and a polygon-shaped ball expanded state, comprising a top and bottom circular frame, a plurality of pivoting vertical leg members extending between the top and bottom circular frames, a body of flexible sheet material extending from the top circular frame down to and enclosing the vertical legs and bottom circular frame, said vertical leg members are connected to the top and bottom circular frames by hinges, each vertical leg member divided into at least three equal length parts and joined together by at least two hinges at equidistant points [a third and two thirds] of the length of each leg member, the improvement comprising said hinges that lock said leg members in the vertical position until downward pressure is applied to unlock the hinges and cause movement of [move the top third and bottom third portions of] said leg members to bend outward and away from the center [to 45-degree angles from the vertical] forming a polygon-shaped ball where said hinges again lock in place. [while the middle third portion of said leg members remain in the upright vertical orientation].